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CIA/PIB-1006/61
July 1961

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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AIRFRAME PLANT 31
AND
SOGANLUG AIRFIELD
TBILISI, USSR



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AIRFRAME PLANT 31 AND SOGANLUG AIRFIELD**TBILISI, USSR**

Airframe Plant 31 (41-40N 44-53E), a major producer of Soviet jet fighter aircraft, is located on the southeast edge of Tbilisi (Tiflis), about 80 miles from the Turkish border.

This plant, covered by photography, occupies an area approximately 3,000 by 2,000 feet. It has undergone little change since previous aerial photographic cover in 1942. The only apparent new buildings are a boiler house, an administrative building, and two large warehouses.

Soganlug Airfield, the test and flyaway field for the aircraft plant, is located two miles southeast of the plant. The only significant change in this airfield since 1942 has been the concrete surfacing of the previous sod runway which now measures 6,000 feet long by 270 feet wide. Little activity is apparent in the airfield area. Two twin-engine transports (CAB) are parked near the runway and the tail of one probable fighter aircraft is protruding from the seven-bay nose hangar.

The major components of the airframe plant and the adjoining airfield, are shown on the accompanying annotated photographs and described in the key to annotations.

KEY TO ANNOTATIONS

Figure 1 - Airframe Plant 31

1. Assembly building, single-story, 900 x 600, * including a 500 x 85 final assembly section.
2. Firing-in butt area. One FRESCO is observed in this area.
3. Subassembly building, single-story, 800 x 350.

* All dimensions are given in feet.

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4. Workshop, single-story, 275 x 60.
5. Storage building, single-story, 335 x 45.
6. Main road entrance to plant.
7. Administration building, single-story, T-shaped, 240 x 60 and 70 x 35.
8. Compressor building, two-story, 155 x 70.
9. Foundry, single-story, 145 x 120, with adjoining 75 x 35 wing.
10. Storage building area. Contains one two-story building, 105 x 70 with a single-story 70 x 35 wing, and the following eight single-story buildings: three 105 x 35; two 340 x 105, with four rail spurs alongside; and one each 180 x 85, 360 x 165, and 270 x 35.
11. Boiler house, single-story, 120 x 70. This building, although listed in the Bombing Encyclopedia as Tbilisi Thermal Power Plant "Air-frame" (apparently only furnishes heat and steam to the aircraft plant.
12. Engineering/Administration building, 4-story, 410 x 85, with two 3-story wings, 130 x 85.
13. Engineering/Administration building, 4-story, 370 x 35.
14. Loading platform, concrete, 275 x 110, with four rail spurs alongside.
15. Storage area, partially fenced: contains 5 single-story storage buildings, 180 x 45, 145 x 35, 110 x 25, 105 x 70, 105 x 45; water storage tank, 45' diameter, rail served; and open storage throughout the area.
16. Rail entrance to installation.
17. Road entrance. Road leads to Tbilisi/Soganlug Airfield (
18. Sawmill area, partially fenced: sawmill, single-story 105 x 35, and two single-story storage buildings, each 105 x 35. Lumber piles throughout area. Rail served.

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FIGURE 1. AIRFRAME PLANT 31, TBILISI, USSR.

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19. Probable flight production building, single-story, 220 x 140.

KEY TO ANNOTATIONS
Figure 2 -- Soganlug Airfield

1. Road to Tbilisi Airframe Plant 31.
 2. Administration building, single-story, L-shaped, 80 x 25 and 60 x 25.*
 3. Two personnel buildings, single-story, 155 x 50 (with control tower) and 130 x 50.
 4. Small radio facility, consisting of small shack and a single stick antenna.
 5. Nose hangar (with 7 bays), single-story 280 x 45 with small shops at each end. Concrete apron 280 x 35.
 6. Communication facility, consisting of 12 short stick antennas.
 7. Parking apron, 1,900 x 120, concrete.
 8. Runway: length, 6,000; width, 270; surface, concrete; orientation, NW/SE.
 9. Hardstand, 130 diameter, concrete.
- Aircraft on field: 2 CAB, plus one probable fighter in nose hangar.

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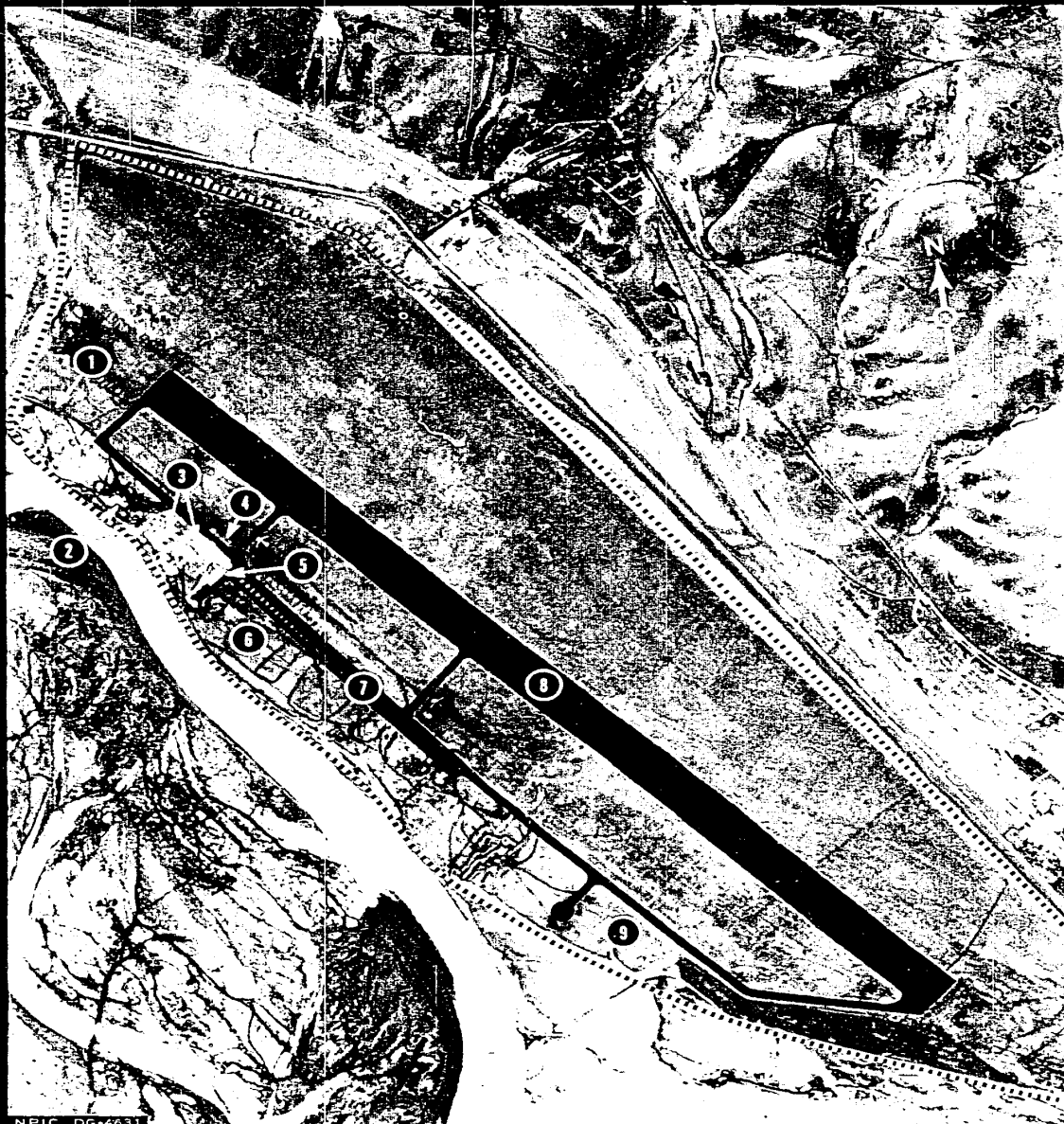


FIGURE 2. SOGANLUG AIRFIELD, TBILISI, USSR.

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